GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:382
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2000
MEGA CITY STATUS TO AHMEDABAD
DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

Will the Minister of URBAN EMPLOYMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item regarding `status of Mega City to Ahmedabad` appearing in the Navbharat Times dated June 24, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government propose to allocate funds to municipal bodies whose municipal limits have been expanded; and

(d) if so, the details of such municipal bodies and amount allocated so far, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The news-item referred to in part (a) of the question attributes to certain statements by Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation regarding proposal for including Ahmedabad under the Mega City Scheme,the National Slum Policy, enhancement of budget provision for improvement of slums from Rs.350 crores to Rs.1000 crores and scheme for providing 20 lakhs houses under the `Vajpayee Nagar Vikas Yojana` etc.

As regards the proposal to include Ahmedabad in the Mega City Scheme references received from Government of Gujarat in this regard were considered and not found feasible on account of the fact that the population of Ahmedabad (Urban Agglomeration) as per 1991 census was less than 4 million as against the criterion of 4 million and above as per 1991 census for inclusion of cities under the scheme.

Regarding enhancement of budget allocation for slum improvement programme under the National Slum Development Programme, from Rs.350 crores to Rs.1000 crores as reported in the news paper the Government is not aware of such a proposal.

Regarding provision of houses under `Vajpayee Nagar Vikas Yojana`, the State Government had reported launching of a new scheme called Vajpayee Nagar Vikas Yojana. While seeking financial support for this programme the State Government had also sought some financial assistance for the massive housing programme undertaken in the urban areas. However, no details of the programme have been furnished. There is no Central Sector programme under which financial assistance could be provided for undertaking housing activities.

With regard to the National Slum Policy, the introduction of the Policy in Parliament will be subject to further discussions with the State Governments, concerned Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(c); No, Sir.

(d): Question does not arise.